

Welcome...

Welcome to the latest edition of the Mayhem Review. There's certainly lots going on at the moment – of course we are looking forward to *Nine*, which is now only a matter of days away. A massive amount of work has gone in to make this a show to remember – lots of luck to all cast and crew, and if you're not involved, make sure you buy your tickets now!

Following *Nine*, we have all sorts of plans for what we're going to be up to in the next few months – keep reading to find out more! As you do you'll notice that this newsletter is literally littered with requests for volunteers. MMTC can't survive without input from members, and there is lots of stuff to get involved with. So, let us know what you'd like to get up to – maybe you fancy getting involved on the production or creative side for our future shows? We really need to expand the number of members who get involved from this perspective, so have a think and let us know. Most imminently we have our retirement home concerts and carol singing events coming up in December. These are great fun to be involved with, and raise much needed funds, so if you are able to get involved please email us as soon as possible.

That's all from me...I hope you enjoy the Mayhem Review and I'll see you at *Nine*!

Elinor Morgan Jones –
Chairman

Tinsel & Tequila party 2010!

It'll soon be Christmas, which is a good excuse for a MMTC knees up. So don a piece of tinsel and join us on Friday 10th December from 6pm onwards at the Young Vic Bar (The Cut, London, SW1) to celebrate yuletide in style!

Countdown to NINE

As most of you will all know, it really isn't long now until Mayhem's current production of *NINE* hits the Arthur Cotterell Theatre in Kingston and wow what a spectacular show it's going to be. With an almost all female cast (sorry boys, you guys are well outnumbered this time) and some big shoes to fill in terms of the recent Hollywood movie starring the likes of Daniel Day Lewis, Nicole Kidman and Penelope Cruz, this show is a certainly huge challenge.

Wednesday 10 – Saturday 13 November 2010
7.45pm (inc. 2.30pm Sat Matinee)
Arthur Cotterell Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames
Tickets: £13.00 / £11.00 (concessions)

Box Office: **020 8347 9585** or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/mmtc

For those of you who aren't familiar with *NINE*, the musical is set in Venice and follows the story of Guido Contini, an egotistical womanising Italian movie director in the midst of a personal and creative crisis. Struggling for inspiration and juggling the numerous women in his life, Guido's professional and personal dilemmas and desires begin to collide and tear apart every aspect of his life, leaving him alone, desperate and destitute. For those who saw the movie, the musical version is definitely a lot more dramatic with, dare I say it, a much better storyline (sorry Rob Marshall). The show is provocative and very passionate, full of love, lust, desire and humour. Having not known the musical a year ago, I can honestly say that I have fallen totally in love with it and can understand what people mean when they say that it is a brilliant piece of theatre.

I couldn't talk about the show and not mention the hugely committed and talented cast who are having a blast at rehearsals. At the time of writing, they are about to be pushed to the limits by Ben and Will rehearsing the show stopping number 'Be Italian'. Not to give too much away, I can honestly say that in 15 years of producing shows, I've never rehearsed a number with sand, tambourines and the kinds of dance moves these girls are having to perform. Showstopper is definitely an understatement.

Before I go I'd just like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the show both on stage and behind the scenes for giving so much and putting everything in to make *NINE* a show to remember. The team are all incredibly proud of you guys.

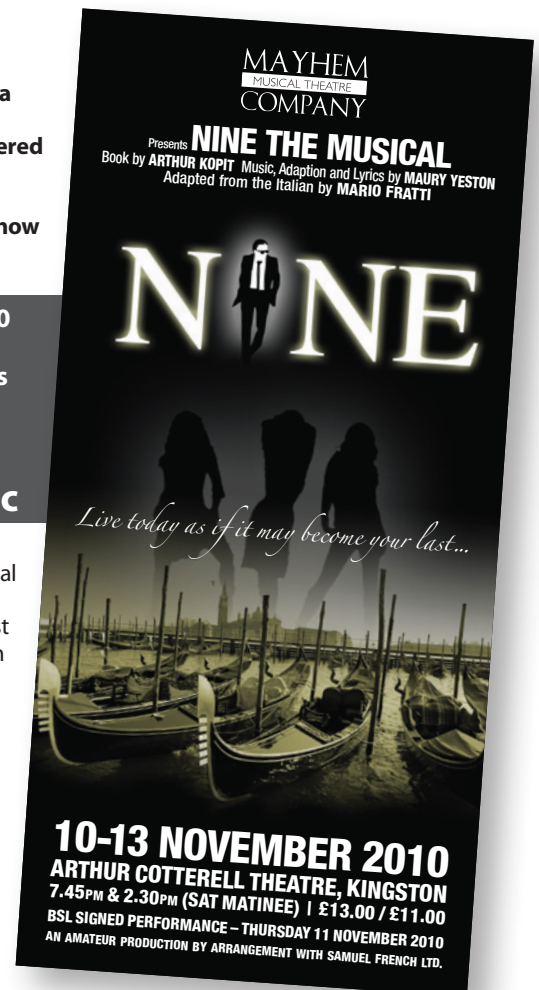
Grab your tickets everyone and don't miss out ... its gonna be a good 'en!

Jon Wade (Musical Director & Producer)

NINE NEEDS 9...

As you all know, its all hands on deck when it comes to show week and many hands certainly make light work. So if anyone can spare some time and help out on front of house and the bar, it would be a tremendous help to the crew.

It doesn't have to be a huge commitment – even if you can only make one night, we would be eternally grateful. FOH crew would be needed prior to each performance (from 7pm for the evening shows and 1.45pm for the matinee) and during the interval to sell programmes, prize draw tickets and work the bar ... and you can still see the show. Please contact Jon at mayhem.nine@gmail.com if you can lend us a hand. Thanks guys.



Coming soon to a theatre near you...



We are thrilled to announce our plans for the first half of 2011! We have two exciting shows lined up.

Firstly in March, MMTC will be putting on our long-awaited next musical revue show. Exact details (including venue and dates) are to be confirmed, however, it will be a show featuring a compilation of musical numbers from the shows. For those who were involved in Salute to Stage & Screen in 2008 you'll know how much fun these shows are to be a part of. It allows us the flexibility to perform many show songs we wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to, and give lots of people a chance to strut their stuff! We really need your ideas and contributions to get this on the road. First and foremost we need a production and creative team. If you fancy getting involved in this side of things, but are maybe looking to get some experience before tackling a full scale production, then this would be a great opportunity to learn, though experienced folks of course more than welcome to apply to! If you are interested – either as a director, musical director, choreographer or producer, please email us at mmtc.committee@googlemail.com asap! We would also like to hear whether you would like to

be involved in performing, as there is unlikely to be a formal audition process – but we would like to hear now from everyone who is potentially interested in getting involved, so email us at the above address now to let us know.

We are hugely excited to announce that MMTC's June show will be the Broadway and West End smash hit musical, Spring Awakening. For those that don't know the show, it is adapted from Frank Wedekind's 1891 expressionist play about the trials, tears, and exhilaration of teenage life. The musical is a clever concoction of a nineteenth century story and a bang up to date modern rock score. The show has only just been released for amateur performance and (once again!) MMTC will be of the first UK companies to stage it. Performances will be from 1-4 June 2011 at the Arthur Cotterell Theatre in Kingston. Auditions will be early in the new year. We're putting together the team for this at the moment – and would be keen to hear from any members interested in getting involved as director, choreographer or producer, or assisting with any of these roles – let us know now at mmtc.committee@googlemail.com

Mayhem needs YOU!

This is a call to all members – we would like to hear from you regarding your company.

We are always looking for new ideas for future shows and venues to ensure MMTC keeps moving forwards and giving outstanding performances in good (affordable) venues.

Do you know of any potential venues that we could consider?

We are open to a variety of style venues as we can then match shows to the best venue. If you know of

anywhere please let us know. If you want to contact any potential venues please check with Clare first in case we have already made an enquiry.

Help us to decide on which shows we should look at for the future.

What shows would you like to do? If you haven't got a particular show in mind we would also welcome your ideas about the type of show you would like to do.

Please contact the committee with all your ideas and suggestions: mmtc.committee@googlemail.com – we look forward to hearing from you.

Meet the Directors...

Well you probably have by now, but anyway here's some little known facts about *Nine's* illustrious Director and Musical Director

Will Howard – Director

Q: An interesting fact that people probably don't know about you:

A: My great, great, great, great, great, great etc. Uncle discovered oxygen, I've appeared on-stage naked and I used to be called Mildred. One of these isn't true.



Q: What drew you to direct *Nine*?

A: Not being able to find anyone else to direct it! And, of course, I couldn't resist the opportunity to work with Ben and Jon, who are a creative Tsunami! In terms of directing though, the show has characters who have real depth, subtlety and journeys to go on – which are the things I find exciting to work with in rehearsals.

Q: Funniest childhood memory?

A: It's all too long ago now.

Q: Favourite Musical?

A: To be in – West Side Story. Otherwise (and I'm assuming I can't count La Bohème) it's probably Miss Saigon, which I've never seen, but the show that's in my head when I listen to it...whoeeee...

Jon Wade – Musical Director

Q: An interesting fact that people probably don't know about you:

A: Ha ha, I don't know about interesting, but I've seen a cow decapitated in an abattoir... doesn't tend to come up in conversations very often.



Q: What drew you to MD/Produce *Nine*?

A: I'm not sure if I was drawn to producing... maybe more persuaded?... lol... no seriously, I think it was the music... especially some of the updated stuff for the movie. I remember thinking it would be awesome to do this show, finding a balance between the gripping drama of the stage show and the music and visuals of the movie, although less said about the movie plot the better ;)

Q: Funniest childhood memory?

A: Probably flying off the stage on a pair of roller boots during the dress rehearsal of some kind of Joseph/Starlight Express mash up, straight into the costume rails and breaking my toe... ha ha... the funniest part was my understudy (who thought of himself as one of the cool dudes) hadn't bothered to tell anyone that he couldn't skate, so I had the most hilarious week watching my him make a total ass of himself in front of the whole school as he tried to learn (insert evil cackle here).

Q: Favourite Musical?

A: Ah, easy one. It would definitely have to be Miss Saigon. The original production at Drury Lane was probably one of the most powerful and emotionally enthralling stage productions I've ever seen. The tour version... errrr... no comment.

Mayhemers in the frame

So, what happens when you sit down two Mayhemers and ask them a bunch of stupid questions? Well you get some stupid answers of course!!

SAY HELLO TO MATT

Matt Walker joined Mayhem during their NODA award-winning production of *Seussical the Musical* where he played one of the Wickersham Brothers. From there he has been an active member of Mayhem wowing us with his performance as Monsieur D'Arque in the recent Mayhem show *Beauty and the Beast*.

Matt is a self-confessed light-weight who entertains the Mayhemers with his stories of Live Action Roleplay. Apart from running around with Orcs and knights, Matt enjoys his music and 'attempts' (as he puts it) to play the drums, violin, guitar and piano.

Q Name one celebrity you'd like to push off a cliff and why.

A Either one of the Jedward twins – because pushing them both off isn't nearly as funny.

Q What is your weirdest fear or phobia?

A Reliving George Spelvin from "The Actors Nightmare", a play that revolves around the classic fear of an actor who forgets his lines and is left floundering on stage. *shudder*

Q If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

A Invisibility – because I am an emo that wants to isolate himself from the rest of the world. Also because of the fun to be had teasing people in "Ghost Hunters".

Q What would be your ideal role to play and why?

A Monsieur Thénardier from *Les Mis*. If you took just one look at my bedroom you

would agree wholeheartedly.

Q What is one of your funniest memories from being involved in a Mayhem show?

A The seemingly eternal pause in *Seussical the Musical* during the "boil it!" scene on one of the nights. It wasn't nearly as funny at the time though!

SAY HELLO TO CARA

Cara Lallement joined Mayhem for *the Wiz* where she "played a million and one things. Poppy was clearly my favourite though!". Not only was she a star on stage but she also helped with costumes and props – the sewing machine became a friend.

She recently broke Mayhemers' hearts by moving back up north but we still haven't got rid of her! She came back during *Beauty and the Beast* to lend a hand backstage and help drink the booze at the after show party! She's hoping to make a well overdue Mayhem comeback for the spring show.

Whilst up north we are SHOCKED to hear she has taken a hobby in camping but is styling it out by pulling off 'camping chic'.

Cara is an accountant by day but a one-woman band by night playing the flute, clarinet, piano and saxophone!

Q Name one celebrity you'd like to push off a cliff and why?

A Jordan. Her face offends me and it would mean she could never release another album again.



Q What is your weirdest fear or phobia?

A I have an absolute phobia of cucumber. I can't deal with looking at it or having it anywhere near my food. It freaks me out!

Q If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

A I would have the power to click my fingers and be showered, make-up and hair done and dressed in the perfect outfit for whatever I was doing.

Q What would be your ideal role to play and why?

A My all-time dream role would be Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* because she's absolutely off her rocker which would suit me well! And if my Sweeney looked like Johnny Depp then all the better...

Q What is one of your funniest memories from being involved in a Mayhem show?

A Argh, too many to choose from! Matt driving me the wrong way down the street after *The Wiz* one night, I feared for my life. Not managing to get the tabs down in B&B because the brake was on and hearing everyone freaking out down the cans and Ben just laughing away. Evillene's legs falling off during the *Wiz* and Vic calmly getting up and putting them back while I tried to keep a straight face

Karaoke Chaos

Our intrepid report, Gareth Thomas, reports back on the karaoke event of the year...

The Glamorgan Pub, Croydon was the venue for Mayhem's annual "Forfeit Karaoke" night on Saturday 7th August.

Supported by a mixture of Mayhem members, friends and one or two locals (who didn't seem to know what was going on) the evening quickly got into swing, raising £316 to be put into the pot for *Nine*.

Some of the highlights included seeing our very own 'Belle' (Charlie), transformed into 'Barbie' supported by Paul as Ken, Frank's crooning as if he was in Vegas, and 'Islands in the Stream' getting exactly what it merited in an enthusiastic



rendition by an extremely "enthusiastic" (as a skunk) couple who took over from Els and Will who claimed not to know the song!

The evenings climax was Ben's rendition of 'All The Single Ladies' which brought the pub to the dance floor, as he hinted at some of the moves that might be seen in *Nine*!

Probably one of the most uncomfortable moments was for Will and Rhiannon being brought together for 'Summer Loving' (although it all worked

out in the end) and it was great to hear 'The Girls' singing 'I'm so pretty' (well we all have delusions)

A special thanks to the Glamorgan for the use of the pub and for the £20 meal voucher that was raffled (Wednesday nights are best for me Chrissy) and most of all thanks to Albert for donating his time free of charge and for the leading the stirring final number 'Only the Good die young'.

Well done and thanks to one and all!

Gossip corner...

Huge congratulations to Juliana Anderiesz on her marriage to John Moola in Sri Lanka in June. Massive congratulations also to Fliss and Wil North on the birth of their daughter, Keziah Rose on 26th September.

Gareth Thomas reached the milestone of 50 years old on 7 October – his birthday celebrations included a murder mystery evening featuring some very familiar faces amongst the suspects!

Finally, we have a number of Mayhemers who have recently started university courses. Barbara Hill and Sophie Barthel are 'mature' full time students at Kingston and Roehampton Universities, and Rhiannon Thomas recently started at the London College of Music. Best of luck to you all!

Cycling around Surrey

Back when it was sunny, a brave bunch of Mayhemers set out on a mission to cycle around Surrey, raising funds for Mayhem. Barbara Hill & Clare Moss tell us all about it...

It dawned a bright and sunny day...thank goodness for that – at least we wouldn't be needing our waterproofs (if it had rained, I don't think we would have made it to the finish)! We met full of enthusiasm (well, some of us, Matt had a hangover), at 10am on Limpsfield Common, with our Intrepid Leader Iain, Big G, Mad Matt, Clare Tinker-Bellamy Moss and Bouncy Barbs.

Unfortunately, it became quickly apparent that as well as being dressed extremely inappropriately (as some kind of a Viking in jeans), Matt had also brought his little brother's bike to ride which meant that his knees were somewhere under his chin.....hmmm. So, we set off via a quick stop for Iain to put enough air in Matt's tyres to get the wheels to go around and put the saddle up so he didn't resemble too much a frog dressed as a viking, then we were on our way.

It was a strangely quiet day because the Icelandic Ash Cloud had grounded all flights and the railway line was being replaced meaning no trains either, so the only thing you could really hear was a lot of huffing and puffing!

Thankfully Iain had put in plenty of downhill which made the going a bit easier, and we had a smooth route until we rounded what is now known as "Cow Corner" – a local farmer had a couple of his cows escape their field and another local

(who for some reason on this lovely day was wearing a woolly hat – it was a bit like having accidentally run into a scene from Emmerdale), was chasing them down the road to attempt to recapture them.

We continued along our way to Hever Castle by which time it was all getting a bit too much for Matt who collapsed in a heap. Unfortunately all those down hills mean there have to be uphill on the way back! And of course it doesn't help when you're riding something designed for an 11 year old ;) Still the coach loads of people arriving at the castle thought it was highly amusing.

Luckily the weather stayed kind to us throughout. Our route taking us a little way through the Town Centre in Edenbridge followed by a bit of an off road element (which we all thought was a really good idea until Barbs nearly fell off and knocked Iain over, and Iain himself actually had to get off and walk), then back to the beautiful wooded countryside.

The final two or three miles were an absolute killer, Clare commented that child birth had been less painful (and we'll take her word for it), but WE DID IT – woo hoo – 25 miles later! Once we had all made it back and our aching limbs had calmed down (and Matt had scraped himself off the car park floor), we treated ourselves to a well earned pub lunch – excellent!

Thanks to everyone who sponsored us and contributed to much needed funds for the production of Beauty and the Beast, and thanks so much to Iain for planning the route and guiding us safely through it – when's the next one??

Singing through December

It wouldn't be December without MMTC's traditional round of concerts at retirement homes and a spot of carol singing.

The fabulous Deborah Gibson has once again secured us two gigs at retirement homes on **Thursday 16 December** at 7.30pm in Purley and **Saturday 18 December** at 4pm in Banstead. For those who haven't done these before, we perform a set of around 45 mins of songs from the shows (solos, duets, group numbers) to retirement home residents. These are always great fun to be involved in this time round may give us a chance to try some stuff for inclusion in the March revue show. They also raise some much needed funds!

Once again, we're looking for some help! Of course we need volunteers to take part, so do let us know asap if you'd like to be involved. We're also looking for some help with putting the concerts together, and taking the rehearsals. If you're interested, let us know at the usual email address. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 18 November.

The equally fabulous Charlee and Juliana have also secured us some carol singing slots, at which will be collecting for the Royal Marsden Hospital and for Mayhem. These will be as follows:

Sunday 12th December

11am 1pm Morrisons, Sutton
2.30-3.30pm Woodcote Green Garden Centre (near Wallington)

Sunday 19th December

11am-12pm Asda, Sutton
2.30-3.30pm Woodcote Green Garden Centre

Let us know at the usual address if you're free to come and sing!

Follow the Trail...

Other shows featuring Mayhemers past and present – coming to a theatre near you!

Katy Davies in *Quasimodo* with Lyric Players. 2-6 November, The Charles Cryer Studio Theatre, Carshalton.

Philip Doyle, Gemma Mortimer, Charlee Simmons and **Victoria Swaine** in *Children of Eden* with Swanbank. 10-14 November, Putney Arts Theatre.

Friesia Schuil in *Dad's Army* with Wimbledon Light Opera. 16-20 November, Merton Hall.

Matt Walker in *All Shook Up* with the Croydon Stagers. 24-27 November, the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon.

...and congratulations to those who have recently performed: **Philip Doyle** (blimey he's been busy), **Jaco Botha** and **Kirsten McGregor** in *Rent* with Cygnet Players, **Paul Grace** in *West Side Story* with Epsom Players, **Sasha Cherry** in *Beauty & the Beast* with CODA

Apologies to anyone we've missed!



Victoria and Becky (and Charlee) – Beauty and the Beast

Caption competition...

As usual an amusing photo for your entertainment, suggested captions welcome!

Committee

Elinor Morgan Jones (Chairman), Juliana Anderiesz-Moola (Vice-Chairman), Marie Hitchcock (Treasurer), Clare Moss (Secretary), Alice Rayman (Publicity Rep), Charlee Simmons (Publicity Rep), Barbara Hill, Gareth Thomas, Sophie Barthel